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JEFFREY L. KEENER, CHIEF

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

ORIGINAL

Re: Written *Ex Parte* Communication; WT Docket Nos. 06-150, 06-169, and
96-86; PS Docket No. 06-229

Dear: Commissioner McDowell,

I am writing to urge the Commission to take advantage of the historic opportunity before it to dramatically improve public safety communications for all first responders. If it makes the right decision and designates at least 10 MHz of commercial spectrum (known as the "E Block") for a public/private broadband partnership, the FCC can bring an end to the days when lives are lost because one agency cannot talk to another agency.


There are two major obstacles that have hampered efforts to bring about a nationwide, interoperable broadband network for public safety. First, the funds simply aren't there. Second, public safety needs more spectrums than it has to make a broadband network work. The plan proposed by Frontline Wireless solves both of these problems by providing for a buildout of the network with private capital and a doubling of spectrum available to first responders and other public safety officials when it's needed most. This network would be truly national in scope, serving 99 percent of the U.S. population, but through modern technology would allow local agencies substantial control.

We have yet to see another plan that would create the network we need to bring public safety communications into the 21st Century. One commercial incumbent even suggested that a network that leaves fully 25 percent of the U.S. population uncovered could serve public safety's needs. That's certainly not the sort of "national" network that will make the American people safer. The stakes are too high to succumb to these and other claims that public safety's network will have to wait for another day. The time to act is now.

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Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey L. Keener

Chief of Police